



Photo by Mysti Blooy

A Hickam member works on the Habitat for Humanity house in Kapolei. After 11 months the house will be officially dedicated Saturday.

# Habitat:

*Team Hickam, Defense Department members build house for local family*

By Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman  
Kukini Editor

197 volunteers ...  
363 visits ...  
2450 hours ...  
11 months ...  
The project is complete.

After United Service Automobile Association approached Col. Ray Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander, about sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity house, 15th Comptroller Squadron took the reigns on the project.

Capt. Darnell Salley, 15th CPTS and project officer, helped find volunteers and organized the volunteers throughout the project.

The first Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004, started out with about six 15th CPTS members heading over to a concrete slab in Kapolei. This was just the beginning of six-, eight-, even 10-hour Saturdays of work on build-

ing a home for Lance and Janice Lewis.

For Captain Salley, his job was easy. "It's easy to get volunteers," he said. "Air Force people volunteer so much."

Even though 15th CPTS was the lead on the project, many members from across Team Hickam and beyond helped out. Not only did Air Force members help, but Coast Guard members also participated.

The house was completed Dec. 13.

One aspect of the job was the homeowners worked alongside the Team Hickam members each week.

"They were working with us," Captain Salley said. "They offered instant gratification for our work."

The homeowners were grateful for the help.

"We want to say thank you so very much (to the volunteers)," said Janice Lewis. "They did so much and were willing to work and cared so much."

The couple has five children and officially moved into their three bedroom, two bath home Jan. 1.



Photo by Mysti Blooy



Photo by Mike Day

**Top: Chief Master Sgt. Ken Kirtley, 15th Comptroller Squadron, routers a piece of wood as he works with several Hickam volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity house. Left: A Hickam member secures the frame of the house early in the construction. Bottom: The completed house, set for the dedication Saturday.**



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